

Amendment and Response

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Serial No.: 10/822,533

Confirmation No.: 3326

Filed: April 12, 2004

For: BIFIDOBACTERIA AND SIDEROPHORES PRODUCED THEREBY AND METHODS OF USEAmendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the above-identified application:

1-40. (Canceled)

41. (Original) A composition comprising an isolated *Bifidobacterium* and either a food or a beverage, wherein the isolated *Bifidobacterium*, when cultured in a medium comprising at least about 0.3 mM 2,2'-dipyridyl, secretes a siderophore, and wherein the siderophore inhibits growth of *Lactococcus lactis*.

42. (Original) The composition of claim 41 wherein the food comprises a dairy product.

43. (Original) The composition of claim 42 wherein the dairy product is a solid dairy product or a semi-solid dairy product.

44. (Original) The composition of claim 42 wherein the dairy product is cottage cheese, cheese, powdered milk, milk, or yogurt.

45. (Original) The composition of claim 41 wherein the beverage comprises milk, vegetable juice, fruit juice, soy milk, soybean milk, fermented soybean milk, or a fruit flavored beverage.

46. (Original) The composition of claim 41 wherein the isolated *Bifidobacterium* is encapsulated or in a tablet.

47. (Original) The composition of claim 41 wherein the composition comprises substantially no free iron, comprises an iron chelator, or a combination thereof.

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48. (Original) A method for administering a live microbial feed supplement, comprising:
providing an isolated *Bifidobacterium*, wherein the isolated *Bifidobacterium*, when
cultured in a medium comprising at least about 0.3 mM 2,2'-dipyridyl, secretes a siderophore,
and wherein the siderophore inhibits growth of *Lactococcus lactis*; and
administering the isolated *Bifidobacterium* to an animal.
49. (Original) The method of claim 48 wherein the animal is a human.
50. (Original) The method of claim 49 wherein the human is an infant.
51. (Original) The method of claim 48 wherein the isolated *Bifidobacterium* is present in a
composition comprising either a food or a beverage.
52. (Original) The method of claim 51 wherein the food comprises a dairy product.
53. (Original) The method of claim 52 wherein the dairy product is a solid dairy product or a
semi-solid dairy product.
54. (Original) The method of claim 52 wherein the dairy product is cottage cheese, cheese,
powdered milk, milk, or yogurt.
55. (Original) The method of claim 51 wherein the beverage comprises milk, vegetable
juice, fruit juice, soy milk, soybean milk, fermented soybean milk, or a fruit flavored beverage.
56. (Original) The method of claim 51 wherein the isolated *Bifidobacterium* is encapsulated
or in a tablet.

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57. (Original) The method of claim 48 wherein the isolated *Bifidobacterium* is secreting the siderophore when administered to the animal.

58. (Original) The composition of claim 51 wherein the composition comprises substantially no free iron, comprises an iron chelator, or a combination thereof.